

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Success is not final,
failure is not fatal: it is
the courage to continue
that counts." ~ Sir
Winston Churchill*

Friday, February 6, 2009

Governor Mitch Daniels presented the ACA Exemplary Offender Program Award to the CLIFF Units of Logansport Juvenile, Miami, Wabash Valley, and Rockville Correctional Facilities during a ceremony held at Rockville. Also in attendance were Commissioner Edwin G. Buss and dignitaries from all of the participating facilities. The national award is only given to one outstanding correctional program each year and was presented to the IDOC at an ACA Conference in January. Congratulations to the CLIFF program!

Putnamville Correctional Facility held its 3rd PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 28 offenders were recognized for successfully completing the faith and character-based program. Ike Randolph, Executive Director of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, and Dave Liebel, Deputy Director of Religious Services, were guest speakers.

Westview Alliance Church volunteers provided a Super Bowl party for 79 Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility offenders. Pizza Hut donated 40 pizzas for the event.

A Black History program was conducted at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Featured speakers were Lucky Hall, founder of Hall Accounting and Tax Service, Byron Alston, Executive Director of the Save the Youth Foundation), and Indianapolis Colts Chaplain Ken Johnson.

5 staff from New Castle Correctional Facility participated in the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics at the Waterbowl in Muncie. It was a warming experience, with temperatures around 6 degrees.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program donated \$250 to The Villages of Indiana and has also sent Valentine bags filled with candy to be distributed to the children The Villages serves.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently began a third collaborative class with IUPUI. This Inside Out Prison Exchange Program allows IUPUI students to come to the facility and participate in a class with PREF residents. This setting allows the Inside and Outside students to compare and contrast ideas with a group unlike their own.

The Indiana State Prison Building Maintenance program completed 482 Pinewood Derby cars for the Boys Scouts.

A Super Bowl party was provided for 15 Pendleton Correctional Facility offenders who were nominated by staff in conjunction with the facility's new Offender Appreciation Program. This program recognizes and rewards offenders who demonstrate responsible behavior and serve as positive role models for other offenders.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted its Valentine Blood Drive this week at the facility. There were 48 people who showed up to donate, with 5 of those being double donors. There were 40 good pints received.

The Education Department at Indiana State Prison just initiated 2 new apprenticeship programs – Bricklayer and Offset Operator (in conjunction with the Print Shop).

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Facility Recall under the direction of newly-appointed Superintendent Bruce Lemmon. Facility updates, grievances, ACA, safety, physical fitness, offender apprenticeship, and the facility store were some of the topics of discussion.

Offenders assigned to the Wheels for the World operation at Pendleton Correctional Facility reconditioned 21 wheelchairs in January, while offenders in the Shifting Gears program restored 41 bicycles.

Miami Correctional Facility's INShape/Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee hosted a MCF Health and Fitness Fair with 12 vendor/participants. More than 50 staff members participated in the event.

Offenders from the Organic Farmers program at Indiana State Prison donated \$250 to benefit the Special Olympics.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner